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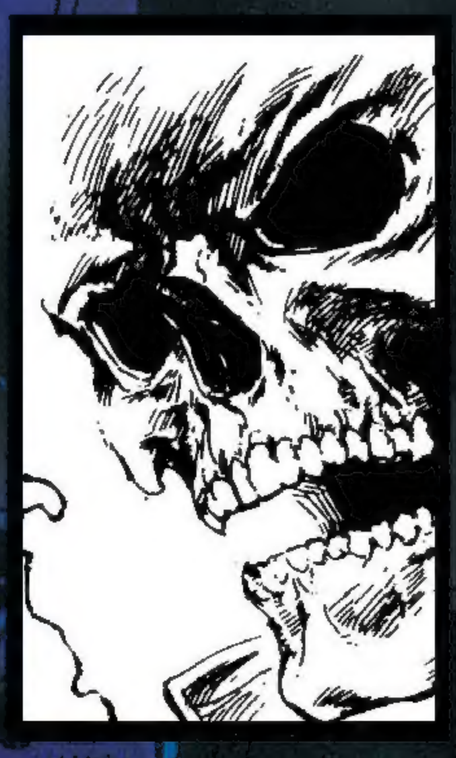
GHOST RIDER® & BLAZE™ SPIRITS OF VENOM™

ADAM KUBERT STEACY 1992



GHOST RIDER: A RELENTLESS AND UNFORGIVING DEMONIC FORCE OF RETRIBUTION. JOHN BLAZE: A MAN WHO ESCAPED HIS OWN DEMONIC CURSE, ONLY TO BE TEAMED WITH THE ENTITY HE ONCE VOWED TO DESTROY. TOGETHER THEY TRAVEL THE COUNTRY, FIGHTING THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT. THEY ARE. . ..

GHOST RIDER & BLAZE
SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE

GHOST RIDER!

YOU LET SPIDER-MAN ESCAPE MY GRASP!

FOR THAT YOU WILL DIE!

NO, VENOM, I WAS ONLY ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT THE SPILLING OF ANY MORE INNOCENT BLOOD.

HA! YOU KNOW NOTHING OF VENGEANCE!

SPIDER-MAN CRUSHES THE INNOCENCE IN ALL THAT COME IN CONTACT WITH HIM!

SPIDER-MAN WAS PROTECTING THE INNOCENT HOSTAGES THAT WERE TO BE USED AS FOOD BY THE CREATION OF DEATHWATCH.*

IF ANY WILL FEEL VENGEANCE'S CRUSHING BLOW...

...LET IT BE THE DEATHSPAWN!

*SEE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #96.

YOU KNOW NOTHING OF HIM AND...

...YOU KNOW NOTHING OF US!

HOWARD MACKIE & ADAM KUBERT STORY / ART

BILL REINHOLD INKS

MIKE HEISLER LETTERS

GREG WRIGHT COLORS

BOBBIE CHASE EDITS

TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

SPIRITS OF VENOM part 4 of 4

LAST RITES

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YOU KNOW NOTHING OF OUR STRENGTH!

OUR HATRED OF SPIDER-MAN DRIVES US...

...STRENGTHENS US.

WE MUST DESTROY THE SPIDER AS HE TRIED TO DESTROY US.

AND IF YOU STAND IN OUR WAY...

...THEN YOU WILL BE DESTROYED TOO!

WITH YOUR OWN CHAIN WE WILL TEAR THE DEMONIC HEAD FROM YOUR BODY!

YOU SAY I KNOW NOTHING OF YOUR STRENGTH.

I SAY...

...YOU KNOW NOTHING OF *MINE!*

FEEL THE BURNING EMBRACE OF MY PENANCE STARE.

FEEL THE PAIN THAT YOU HAVE INFLICTED ON OTHERS!

FEEL IT TEAR AT YOUR--

ARRGHHHH! WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* TO US?

YOUR *FLAMES*...NOT FIRE...DON'T BURN ...BUT...BUT...THE *PAIN!*

SOMETHING IS WRONG.

THIS COSTUME OF HIS...IT IS ALIVE... ALIEN... REACTING TO THE PENANCE STARE IN AN UNKNOWN WAY... IT--

FWOOM KOOSH

NASTY! NASTY! MR. FIRE THAT DOESN'T BURN!

BUT *THAT* HURT!

WE DON'T LIKE TO BE HURT.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT HURT YOU MORE THAN IT DID US!

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN *HURT* YOU A LITTLE MORE.

HAHAHA!

I WOULDN'T LAUGH TOO LOUD...

CLIK

...I'M NOT IN A REAL GOOD MOOD TONIGHT.

I'VE GOT A HEADACHE...

...ONE PULL OF THE TRIGGER AND YOU CAN JOIN ME.

BUT WE *LIKE* LAUGHING.

ONLY ONE THING MAKES US HAPPIER THAN LAUGHING! *KILLING!*

OOPS! LOOK WHAT WE'VE GONE AND DONE!

WE'RE ALL TANGLED IN YOUR TRIGGER FINGER.

GUESS I WON'T BE GETTING THAT HEADACHE AFTER ALL, *Heh?*

HA HA HA HA

SHUT UP!

SHING

I SAID I HAVE A HEADACHE.

THIP

THAT'S *TWICE* YOU'VE HURT US, *BLAZE!* FIRST WITH THAT GUN OF YOURS* AND NOW YOUR KNIFE.

* SEE LAST ISSUE.

IT WILL BE THE LAST.

OH, GHOST RIDER! DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D LIKE TO LEND A HAND HERE?

BANG.

YOU'VE GOT A SENSE OF HUMOR, BLAZE.

I'M GOING TO ENJOY CRACKING YOUR BONES WITH MY--

WHAT?

THE *DEATHSPAWN!* PULLING US THROUGH THE--

THE QUENTIN CARNIVAL. DOVER, NEW JERSEY...

CLARA? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? IT'S ME, MIRANDA...

...TIMMY'S MOM. HE'S BEEN WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU EVER SINCE YOU PASSED OUT IN THE STORM.*

WE ALL HAVE BEEN, MS. MENNINGER.

YEAH, RIGHT. YOUR PULSE WAS RACING WILDLY FOR A SHORT TIME AFTER WE FOUND YOU, BUT IT'S SETTLED DOWN NOW.

WHAT THE...

WOLF, PLEASE!

CLARA, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?

YES, ELI.

*LAST ISSUE.

A VISION... FIRE... DARKNESS... ALL AROUND... JOHN MUST KNOW A VISION OF...

...OF ...OF ...OF...

NOOOOO!

ELI! SHE'S GOING INTO CONVULSIONS!

CALL A DOCTOR!

MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...

SPIDER-MAN?

LOTS OF SUPER-POWERED VILLAINS, INCLUDING *VENOM*.

HERE'S ONE OF THEM, HOBGOBLIN.

PUT HIM IN A CELL AND THROW AWAY THE KEY.

BUT NOW THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE SAFE...

Ah, THE CAVALRY ARRIVES IN THE NICK OF TIME!

LOOK, IF THERE ARE ANY MORE OF YOU *GUARDSMEN* AROUND, YOU BETTER GET SOME EXTRA BATTERIES FOR YOUR SUITS...

...THERE IS A SMALL WAR TAKING PLACE UNDERGROUND.

...I'M HEADING BACK DOWN TO SEE IF I CAN HELP OUT *GHOST RIDER* AND *BLAZE*...

...I OWE THEM.

ALL UNITS! ALL UNITS!

WE HAVE A POSITIVE CONFIRMATION ON *VENOM'S* LOCATION!

WE'RE GOING *UNDERGROUND*... NOW!

DEEP UNDER-GROUND...

WAKE UP, BLAZE...

...YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT!

Ooh, IF I COULD ONLY HAVE YOU FOR MYSELF.

I'VE NEVER SENSED SUCH VITALITY IN A HUMAN.

...THESE THREE ARE FOR DEATHWATCH.

PUT YOUR TONGUE BACK IN YOUR MOUTH, HAG...

AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, WE'D BEST BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

VENOM THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE TAKING TOO KINDLY TO OUR MYSTICAL BIND-INGS. A BIT TOO HOT, I'D SAY!

SOON DEATHWATCH STRONGEST OF THE TRANSLORDS, WILL WALK AMONG US!

EACH OF US GAVE HIM A BIT OF OUR LIFE'S ESSENCE SO THAT HE COULD CROSS OVER FROM HIS OWN DIMENSION.

GIVING UP PART OF OUR HUMANITY... WE BECAME THE DEATHSPAWN.

BUT THE PROMISE OF GREATER POWER WAS FULFILLED.

AS DEATHWATCH FED OFF THE LIFE FORCES OF HUMANS, HE GAVE BACK THAT WHICH HE TOOK...

...AND MORE!

HAG, MYSELF, SNOWBLIND AND OTHERS WERE GIVEN POWERS BEYOND THOSE OF HUMANS.

WE WERE HIS ELITE.

AND WE SHALL BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE!

I SAID STAY BACK, HAG!

DEATHWATCH MUST DRAIN THE LIFE FORCE OF THESE THREE HIMSELF.

HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S UP FOR DRAINING MUCH OF ANY-THING.

NOT YET. FIRST HE MUST BE FORTIFIED BY THE...

...DEATHSPAWN!

THOSE WHOM HE CREATED WILL MERGE WITH HIM ONCE MORE.

THEIR VERY ESSENCE WILL ANIMATE HIM...

...SO THAT DEATHWATCH MAY *FEED* ONCE AGAIN!

FEED, MASTER, SO THAT YOU MAY RETURN TO US ONCE AGAIN!

YOU DON'T WANT TO FEED SO SOON AFTER BEING DEAD...

...IT'LL GIVE YOU...

NICE.

...CRAMPS!

THWIP

HOW ABOUT EVERYONE JUST STAYS RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE?

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYONE...EVEN A BUNCH OF DEMON KILLERS, BUT...

...IF I WAS GOING TO...

...BLAZE'S GUN WOULD BE THE WAY TO DO IT!

TAKE HIM!

DEATHWATCH WILL DRAIN HIS LIFE FORCE AS WELL!

I SAID...

...DON'T MAKE ME USE THIS THING!

YOU ASKED FOR...

KCHiNKT KCHiNKT KCHiNKT

BLAZE! I WAS NEVER GOOD WITH GUNS!

WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY?

SURE, BUT IF IT'S NOT WORKING FOR YOU, I DOUBT...

B-KOOM

GEEZ! HOW'D THAT HAPPEN?

I'LL FIGURE THAT OUT LATER, BUT NOW...

GHOST RIDER! WE'VE GOT TO HELP SPIDER-MAN.

YOU HELP HIM...

...I MUST CONTAIN THE DEATHSPAWN WHILE THEY ARE STILL WITHIN DEATHWATCH!

SURE.

HELP SPIDER-MAN. *NO* PROBLEM, EXCEPT...

...I CAN'T GET OFF A CLEAR SHOT WITHOUT HITTING HIM AND I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO GO UP AGAINST THE DEATHSPAWN WITHOUT THE GUN.

BUT *HE* DOES!

SHOULD I?

HE'D DO ANYTHING...GO THROUGH *ANYONE*... TO GET TO SPIDER-MAN.

HE'D ALSO BE A LOOSE CANNON AFTERWARDS, BUT THE THREE OF US COULD TAKE HIM...

...I HOPE!

VENOM, FETCH!

SPIDER-MAN IS OURS, KILLERS!

YOU ARE ALL OURS!

YOU WILL ALL *DIE* FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO THE INNOCENT!

ER... THANKS... FOR NOW!

THE DEATHSPAWN ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES!

YEAH, THEY MUST BE WEAK FROM MERGING WITH DEATH-WATCH, BUT...

...THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM FOR US TO HANDLE IF THEY ALL COME BACK OUT!

THEY WILL NOT RE-EMERGE!

WHILE THEY ARE CONTAINED BY MY CHAIN, FIRE AT DEATHWATCH!

YEAAARGH!

WHATEVER YOU SAY! JUST STAND BACK...

BKOOM

...YOU KNOW HOW THIS STUFF DISAGREES WITH YOU!

NICE.

THE CHAIN IS ACTING AS A CONTINUOUS CIRCUIT FOR THE HELLFIRE.

IT'S KEEPING THE DEATHSPAWN TUCKED AWAY INSIDE DEATHWATCH.

THE GHOULS ARE GONE, SO THAT LEAVES...

...HAG AND TROLL!

I'M WILLING TO BET THAT IF EITHER OF YOU SO MUCH AS BLINKS, I COULD TAKE BOTH OF YOUR HEADS OFF WITH ONE SHOT.

WANT TO TRY?

PLEASE?

THEY'RE FINISHED.

IN SOLID FORM THEY WEREN'T SO TOUGH.

JUST UGLY!

BLAZE, GHOST RIDER, LET'S GET OUT OF THIS SEWER BEFORE I...

NOT YET, SPIDER...

...WE'VE GOT BUSINESS TO FINISH! I WANT TO EAT YOUR...

B-KOOM

I'VE HAD IT WITH ALL THIS *BRAIN EATING* TALK!

THERE IS NO WAY THAT GHOST RIDER AND I ARE GOING TO LET YOU GET TO SPIDER-MAN!

WE CAN TAKE YOU OUT. KILL THAT ALIEN COSTUME OF YOURS...FOR GOOD! HOW WOULD THAT FEEL?

NO...WE CANNOT BE SEPARATED...WE WOULD *DIE*...WE NEED EACH OTHER...BUT SPIDER-MAN MUST DIE!

MAYBE ANOTHER DAY. SOO--

--OOOOON!

SONIC DISRUPTOR HAS HIM DOWN...

...GET HIM IN THE CONTAINMENT CYLINDER *NOW!*

LOOKS LIKE THE CAVALRY ARRIVED.

LET'S CALL IT A DAY.

LATER, ON STREET LEVEL...

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, GUYS!

THE GUARDSMEN HAVE ROUNDED UP THE STRAY *DEATHSPAWN* AND THEY STUMBLED ONTO *DEMOGOBLIN*.

HOBGOBLIN'S GOING BACK TO PRISON AND *VENOM* IS HEADING BACK TO THE *VAULT*.

I MAY BE ABLE TO GET A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP.

YEAH? GOOD FOR YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH DEATHWATCH, HAG AND TROLL? WOULDN'T IT BE SMARTER TO LET THE GUARDSMEN TAKE THEM?

NO, THERE ARE FORCES AT PLAY HERE THAT SCIENCE ALONE CANNOT RESTRAIN.

WE MUST SEEK OUT *DR. STRANGE*. HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WELL, GOOD LUCK! DOC CAN BE A HARD MAN TO FIND SOMETIMES.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS DR. STRANGE THING...

...DIDN'T *HE* SET US UP WITH *LILITH* AND HER CREW?

HE HAD HIS REASONS.

YEAH, WELL...

...I WANT TO GET BACK TO THE CARNIVAL TONIGHT BEFORE THIS SNOW GETS ANY WORSE.

NEXT ISSUE: MORE THAN THE SNOW GETS WORSE.